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1 August 88

**TALKING POINTS FOR THE ADDI
RESULTS OF THE SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM**

At Friday's Central Committee plenum, convened to endorse the work of the party conference, General Secretary Gorbachev won endorsement of a timetable for implementing major aspects of his political reform program. The plenum made no personnel changes and appears to have left some important issues raised at the conference unresolved, however, leaving the impression that the battle over reform is far from over.

- o Gorbachev laid out a schedule for reform implementation--beginning with lower-level party elections this fall--that the resolutions approved.
- o Gorbachev will head a commission charged with "preparing proposals" for implementing the party conference's decisions--evidently constitutional amendments that would require Supreme Soviet approval.
- o His report was light on specific measures, including his controversial proposals--unveiled at the conference--to strengthen the state presidency and to combine the top party and state posts at all levels, suggesting these remain areas of controversy.

Gorbachev may have gained the most in his battle with the party apparatus.

- o The plenum resolution on the party apparatus endorsed Gorbachev's proposal to reduce substantially and reorganize the apparatus by the end of the year, and to utilize displaced apparatchiki according to their expertise.
- o Over the last six weeks, the heads of three Central Committee branch economic departments have been reassigned, indicating that Gorbachev is already cutting the apparatus and moving to focus the Central Committee's work on strategic oversight rather than day-to-day direction of the economy.

Despite predictions that Solomentsev would leave the Politburo and that Gorbachev ally Razumovskiy would be promoted to full membership, the plenum made no personnel changes.

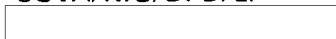
- o The lack of Central Committee turnover at both the conference and the plenum indicates that Gorbachev is probably reconciled to working with the cadres he has until the next party congress, scheduled for 1991.

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- o There have been no new full Politburo members elected since June 1987, and this is the first plenum under Gorbachev not to make a personnel change.
- o Solomentsev's remaining in the Politburo may reflect a desire on Gorbachev's part not to rock the boat at a critical time. The failure to promote Razumovskiy also suggests that Gorbachev may have to be satisfied with the status quo for now.

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